

# CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director



# Weekly Bulletin

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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

## Venereal Disease Control

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Dr. George Parrish, city health officer of Los Angeles, addressed the Los Angeles County Medical Society February 18th reporting the Venereal Disease Conference called by Surgeon General Thomas Parran in Washington during the last week of the past year, which conference Dr. Parrish attended as an official delegate. He reminded the physicians of Los Angeles that the prevention of smallpox, diphtheria, scarlet fever and typhoid depends upon from one to three or four simple inoculations completed within at most three weeks, but that the control of syphilis as a modern public health problem, by methods of treatment, depends on not less than 46 to 102 equally incommodeing and possibly reaction producing procedures extending over a period of 40 to 65 weeks.

Dr. Parrish presented interesting statistics, among which are the following:

Approximately 1,000,000 new cases are reported each year.

It is estimated that there are 685,000 syphilitics on treatment daily in the United States.

The prevalence of syphilis is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times greater in cities of 10,000 or over than in the rural districts.

There are 18,500 cases of paresis treated daily in institutions scattered throughout the United States.

There are 40,000 estimated deaths from cardio-vascular syphilis annually in the United States.

Dr. Parrish was quoted as believing that if all con-

ditions due to syphilis were reported as such, it would be determined the leading cause of death.

In his remarks pertaining to treatment, Dr. Parrish said:

"The more arsphenamine used, the less relapse. For instance: 9 injections or less, 7.7 per cent relapse; 10 to 19 injections, 4.4 per cent relapse; 20 to 29 injections, 3.6 per cent relapse; 30 to 39 injections, 1.2 per cent relapse.

"The critical point is between the fifth and ninth injection. Of those who received only one to four shots—64 per cent relapsed, 10 per cent infectiously; of those receiving five to nine injections—only 14 per cent relapsed. Much arsphenamine and little heavy metal gives one-half the relapse that little arsphenamine and much heavy metal does. (2.7 per cent vs. 5.3 per cent.) Bismuth is more effective than mercury. Arsphenamine, mercury therapy gives 9.5 per cent muco-cutaneous relapses as compared with only 3.6 per cent under arsphenamine bismuth therapy.

"Continuous treatment (without rest periods) is more effective than intermittent treatment. The following are the League of Nations results: Relapse by continuous treatment 0.82 per cent; by intermittent 5.6 per cent; American results—two to ten year observation—cures by continuous treatment 80 per cent—by intermittent 65 per cent. American results—a rest of one month in the first year reduces the negative blood Wassermann at the end of the year from 68 to 40 per cent. Continuous treatment produces no more serious reactions than intermittent 1.8 per cent of a thousand continuous technic—1.9 per cent intermittent.

"So effective is modern treatment for early syphilis that the following statements are possible: In early syphilis, thirty-two doses of arsphenamine with appropriate heavy metal in sixty-five weeks by continuous, or twenty-one months by intermittent technic give: by the former 1.1 per cent clinical and 5.6 per cent serologic relapse in two to ten years; by the intermittent 4.2 per cent clinical and 7.5 per cent serologic relapse in the same period.

"The optimum treatment in latent syphilis consists of one year continuous and a second year of intermittent treatment (a total of twenty-four arsphenamine and fifty to sixty doses of bismuth) subject to considerations of age, sex, and other complications.

"If early syphilis were successfully treated, the tragic results of later stages of the disease, syphilis in the expectant mother, and congenital syphilis would be prevented. The principles of the prevention of congenital syphilis are simple: 78 per cent healthy children when treatment is begun before the fifth month; 61 per cent healthy children when treatment is begun after the fifth month; 91 per cent healthy children when 10 arsenical and 10 heavy metal injections were given before the fifth month. With much arsphenamine and little heavy metal before the fifth month, 85 per cent healthy children. With little arsphenamine and much heavy metal before fifth month, 75 per cent healthy children. With much arsphenamine and little heavy metal after the fifth month, 55 per cent healthy children. Habitually aborting syphilitic women (two to three abortions) produce seemingly healthy children in 69 to 78 per cent after treatment. The pregnant syphilitic woman tolerates arsenicals much better than the nonpregnant woman (one-half as much dermatitis and one-fifth as much jaundice).

"Treat every syphilitic woman early and adequately in every pregnancy whether Wassermann or negative."

Relative to syphilis in domestic labor and in the industries, Dr. Parrish said:

"It was the consensus of opinion that food handlers should be regularly examined; so should domestic employees. Newark's (N. J.) Health Department recently examined 19,381 domestics with the following amazing results:

"7870 white people for syphilis of which 7532 were negative, 95.7 per cent; 338 or 4.3 per cent positive. 11,511 negroes for syphilis, of which 8520 were negative or 74 per cent, while 2991, or 26 per cent positive. For gonorrhea; of 7824 whites, 7728 or 98.7 negative; 92 or 1.2 per cent were positive. Of 11,183 negroes, 10,788 or 96.5 per cent were negative; while 371 or 3.3 per cent positive. A grand average of 19.8 per cent, both Wasserman and gonorrhea (negroes and whites).

"It is proposed to carry examinations into all industry and to all hospital patients. Surgeon General Parran will ask the present Congress for \$25,000,000 to be spent in this fight. This money will be allotted to the State Health Officer of each of the forty-eight states. The State Health Officer will allo-

cate this money to the various municipal and county health departments where it is most needed and where it will do the most good. These funds will be used not only for the prevention, control and treatment of syphilis itself, but much of it will go toward mobilizing and training doctors, nurses, dentists and social workers."

Dr. Parrish made a strong plea that the medical profession join in the concerted efforts to bring syphilis under control and offered the complete facilities of the city health department in bringing assistance to practicing physicians in their activities pertaining to treatment of cases of the disease. Dr. Parrish recognized the importance of the private physician in the control of syphilis. His remarks were in line with statements by Dr. M. J. Rosenau in his "Preventive Medicine and Hygiene." Dr. Rosenau states, "About 60 per cent of all cases of venereal diseases are treated by the private physician; the doctor therefore holds the key to the prevention of these infections." Dr. Parrish urged that the services of trained social workers or nurses be made available to practicing physicians and that the health officer and the medical profession work together in the successful prosecution of a program against syphilis. He urged members of the profession to approve the efforts of the city health department in providing adequate treatment for all persons who can not obtain private medical attention. He also advocated the use of special lay groups to take part in this program of venereal disease education. He suggested further that every ethical doctor practicing in Los Angeles should have a part in this program—"a battle against the world's greatest human enemy. Medical men should always lead where health and human welfare are concerned."

Dr. Parrish added further: "Surgeon General Parran's program in California will be under the supervision of the state health officer, who unquestionably will appoint a full time venereal disease control officer."

#### A PARABLE

A youth once fell heir to a book. Its like could be found only in the library of a seat of learning. The new owner had to be careful lest the volume be injured by moisture, rough usage, or sunlight, lest it be eaten by worms, burned, or stolen. At length, as a young man, he learned to read the book; for its matter was composed in an ancient tongue. Furthermore, becoming versed in philosophy, he brought the author's wisdom to bear upon his own life. What he thus learned turned out to be itself a possession, free however from anxiety and the hazards of water, fire, or theft. It was secure wealth, yielding steady returns as long as he lived.

—Leon J. Richardson

## WESTERN BRANCH A. P. H. A. TO MEET IN PHOENIX

The Western Branch of the American Public Health Association will hold its eighth annual meeting at Phoenix, Arizona, April 13, 14, and 15, 1937. The program, which is now in the course of preparation, will be devoted to subjects that are of special interest to public health workers in western states. It is hoped that a large number of public health workers from California will attend this important meeting. Those who may be unable to attend the meeting of the American Public Health Association in New York City next October might well plan to attend the Phoenix meeting. The distance from Los Angeles is negligible and the Phoenix meeting can be attended with little loss of time. Inquiries relative to the program and other details may be addressed to the Secretary of the Western Branch, Dr. W. P. Shepard, at 600 Stockton Street, San Francisco, or to Dr. George C. Truman, State Superintendent of Public Health, Phoenix, Arizona.

## RELAPSING FEVER, 1934-1935

This disease has become quite a problem especially because of the difficulty in control.

In 1934 there were 30 cases and in 1935 18 cases. To date 107 cases have been reported. There have been no fatalities so far and no serious complications. However, the infection is sufficiently serious as not to be taken lightly. The diagnosis should be made early and prompt treatment instituted or the patient is likely to go through a rather debilitating illness. Considering the localities in which cases have occurred it is apparent that probably the entire Sierra Nevada Range may be considered a focus of infection—at least at elevations above 5,000 feet. This year (1936) this Bureau prepared a rather comprehensive bulletin (No. 61) on the subject of relapsing fever.

The work of the mason is to build, of the physician to heal, of the scholar to study. Through teaching he may share his knowledge with other inquiring minds. An age of fine culture is always one of effective study. In it scholars are unhampered in their search for truth. No tyrant forbids them to lift their eyes to the hills, nor prescribes what their findings shall be. Only through an unshackled spirit of inquiry can they find the truth that builds civilization and makes men free. George Eliot was not the one to observe the scholar's "power of persevering, devoted labor." The university, which Milton called the "house of scholarship," is a bulwark of the State and a mother to civilization. "What shall become of that commonwealth," says Hooker, "which hath not the eye of learning to beautify, guide, and direct it?"

## TYPHOID FEVER, 1934-1935

In 1934 there were 626 cases of typhoid fever with 80 deaths and in 1935, 534 cases with 75 deaths. Practically all of these were sporadic cases—no major epidemic being reported. In the spring of 1936 a very interesting outbreak involving 29 cases occurred in a small community in the Sacramento delta region. Investigation proved this outbreak to have been water borne. The water supply was from a deep drilled well—the casing of which had rusted through about three feet below ground level, permitting water to seep in. This seepage water was heavily polluted. It was found that a twelve inch sewer line passed within a few feet of the well and every joint leaked. Heavy rainfall raised the ground water level and allowed sewage polluted water to pass through the well casing into the well. When a new supply of water was furnished the outbreak subsided.

If one continues to ply one's mind, growth ensues, even in the years formerly supposed to be marked by stagnation and decay. To foster this growth one must not trust too much to the casual gains of everyday work and experience. One must put forth directed efforts. Merely to maintain one's status is not enough. He who is satisfied to stand still will soon slip backward. To grow one must go on learning. So it has come about that education, formerly thought to be an activity limited to the days of one's youth, is now seen in one form or another to be desirable in all periods of life. Thus one continues to improve; thus one keeps young.

Do not spend your days waiting for an angel to deliver realized hopes at your door. Go out and toil for them. There are few forms of hard work more wearying than waiting.

## MORBIDITY

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending  
February 13, 1937

### Chickenpox

872 cases: Alameda County 11, Alameda 16, Albany 7, Berkeley 20, Hayward 1, Oakland 26, Butte County 1, Contra Costa County 1, Pittsburg 1, Fresno County 11, Fresno 9, Reedley 2, Sanger 12, Parlier 2, Humboldt County 1, Imperial County 2, El Centro 2, Kern County 8, Bakersfield 1, Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 20, Beverly Hills 1, Compton 3, Glendale 9, Huntington Park 5, Inglewood 4, Long Beach 33, Los Angeles 127, Monrovia 1, Montebello 1, Pasadena 13, Pomona 23, Redondo 3, San Fernando 7, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, Lynwood 7, Hawthorne 4, South Gate 11, Gardena 1, Madera County 2, Monterey County 9, Salinas 5, Napa 1, Nevada City 3, Orange County 14, Anaheim 1, Fullerton 2, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 20, Placer County 7, Riverside County 14, Riverside 10, Sacramento County 16, Sacramento 39, Ontario 12, Redlands 4, San Bernardino 28, San Diego County 14, La Mesa 1, National City 1, Oceanside 10, San Diego 52, San Francisco 69, San Joaquin County 22, Stockton 7, Tracy 1, Daly City 1, San Mateo 1, South San Francisco 2, Santa Barbara 8, Santa Clara County 21, Mountain View 1, Palo Alto 4, San Jose 14, Santa Cruz County 1, Shasta County 1, Stanislaus County 2, Modesto 5, Tulare County 7, Lindsay 13, Visalia 3, Ventura County 9, Santa Paula 1, Yuba County 2.

### Diphtheria

28 cases: Oakland 1, Fresno County 1, Parlier 1, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 1, Hanford 1, Los Angeles 9, Orange County 1, Anaheim 1, Santa Ana 1, Seal Beach 1, Riverside 1, Sacramento 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, Colma 1, Shasta County 2, Oakdale 1, Tulare County 1.

**German Measles**

35 cases: Berkeley 2, Oakland 1, Pittsburg 4, Eureka 6, Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 4, Anaheim 1, Orange 1, Laguna Beach 1, Riverside County 2, San Francisco 5, San Joaquin County 1, Santa Clara County 1, San Jose 1.

**Influenza**

7706 Cases: Alameda County 1, Albany 3, Berkeley 109, Hayward 3, Oakland 99, San Leandro 3, Butte County 123, Colusa County 2, Colusa 1, El Cerrito 27, Hercules 1, Fresno County 444, Fresno 211, Selma 1, Parlier 21, Orland 37, Eureka 22, Westmoreland 2, Kern County 323, Bakersfield 2, Taft 8, Kings County 5, Hanford 107, Lemoore 22, Lassen County 159, Los Angeles County 412, Alhambra 14, Arcadia 4, Beverly Hills 1, Compton 4, Culver City 7, El Monte 33, El Segundo 3, Glendale 30, Hermosa Beach 5, Huntington Park 4, Inglewood 5, La Verne 2, Long Beach 92, Los Angeles 834, Manhattan 2, Montebello 1, Pasadena 28, Pomona 65, Redondo 26, San Fernando 24, San Gabriel 4, Santa Monica 10, South Pasadena 2, Whittier 7, Torrance 2, South Gate 6, Monterey Park 6, Maywood 4, Bell 2, Gardena 3, Madera County 185, Madera 424, Chowchilla 13, Merced County 9, Los Banos 16, Mono County 3, Monterey 3, Pacific Grove 1, Salinas 1, Napa County 3, Napa 10, Nevada City 59, Orange County 35, Anaheim 16, Brea 16, Fullerton 22, Newport Beach 7, Santa Ana 15, La Habra 1, Laguna Beach 9, Placentia 2, Tustin 2, Colfax 5, Riverside County 32, Riverside 8, Sacramento County 21, Sacramento 457, Hollister 140, San Bernardino County 39, Ontario 11, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 5, Upland 2, San Diego County 99, Coronado 1, La Mesa 7, National City 2, San Diego 10, San Francisco 52, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo County 30, Arroyo Grande 2, Paso Robles 11, San Luis Obispo 64, San Mateo County 27, Daly City 4, Redwood City 1, South San Francisco 34, Santa Barbara County 10, Santa Barbara 7, Santa Clara County 211, Mountain View 25, Palo Alto 12, San Jose 1263, Santa Clara 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Santa Cruz 125, Watsonville 49, Solano County 13, Fairfield 1, Suisun 28, Vallejo 4, Stanislaus County 123, Oakdale 45, Turlock 53, Sutter County 1, Tehama County 65, Corning 193, Red Bluff 39, Tulare County 74, Exeter 20, Lindsay 197, Visalia 79, Ventura County 62, Santa Paula 141, Yolo County 50, Winters 1, Woodland 1, Yuba County 1.

**Malaria**

One case: California.\*

**Measles**

103 cases: Berkeley 3, Oakland 1, Crescent City 1, Humboldt County 1, Eureka 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 11, Glendale 11, Los Angeles 14, Pasadena 1, San Fernando 1, Merced County 2, Los Banos 4, Anaheim 1, Roseville 15, Riverside County 6, Riverside 1, Sacramento County 2, Sacramento 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 3, San Francisco 3, South San Francisco 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 3, Tulare County 1, Exeter 1, Oxnard 1, Yuba County 9, California 1.\*

**Mumps**

689 cases: Alameda 7, Berkeley 37, Oakland 3, Butte County 8, Colusa County 2, Contra Costa County 1, Pittsburg 11, Placerville 1, Fresno County 13, Fresno 1, Reedley 6, Sanger 3, Selma 1, Orland 1, Humboldt County 2, Eureka 16, Imperial County 2, El Centro 12, Kern County 32, Hanford 4, Los Angeles County 29, Beverly Hills 4, Compton 4, Culver City 3, El Segundo 1, Glendale 4, Huntington Park 8, Inglewood 3, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 42, Monrovia 2, Pasadena 7, Pomona 3, Santa Monica 2, South Pasadena 4, Whittier 1, Torrance 1, Lynwood 2, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 2, Monterey Park 2, Bell 1, Gardena 1, Madera County 1, Marin County 1, Merced County 2, Monterey County 3, Napa County 1, Napa 1, Orange County 8, Anaheim 3, Fullerton 3, Orange 2, Santa Ana 32, Tustin 1, Riverside County 4, Riverside 61, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 11, San Bernardino County 6, Ontario 6, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 88, San Diego County 2, Coronado 5, El Cajon 1, National City 8, San Diego 42, San Francisco 61, San Joaquin County 3, Stockton 2, San Luis Obispo 1, Burlingame 3, Redwood City 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Lompoc 3, Santa Clara County 5, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 3, Stanislaus County 2, Tulare County 2, Lindsay 4, Ventura County 4, Santa Paula 3, Davis 1.

**Pneumonia (Lobar)**

214 cases: Alameda 1, Albany 1, Berkeley 2, Oakland 6, Butte County 1, Oroville 1, Richmond 2, Fresno County 1, Fresno 1, Eureka 3, Fortuna 2, Kern County 1, Susanville 1, Los Angeles County 22, Alhambra 1, Glendale 6, Hermosa 1, Long Beach 5, Los Angeles 73, Monrovia 1, Pasadena 2, San Fernando 2, Santa Monica 2, Gardena 2, Madera County 6, Madera 3, Merced County 2, Carmel 1, Napa County 3, Placer County 1, Riverside County 3, Riverside 4, Sacramento County 3, Sacramento 9, San Bernardino 1, Escondido 1, National City 1, Oceanside 1, San Diego 3, San Francisco 15, San Joaquin County 1, San Mateo County 1, South San Francisco 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 2, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 2, Tulare County 5, Lindsay 3.

**Scarlet Fever**

311 cases: Berkeley 4, Oakland 5, Butte County 1, Colusa County 1, Contra Costa County 4, Pittsburg 1, Richmond 1, Fresno County 19, Clovis 2, Firebaugh 1, Fresno 3, Humboldt County 4, Arcata 3, Imperial County 5, Kern County 16, Bakers-

\* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

field 1, Lassen County 3, Susanville 1, Los Angeles County 15, Arcadia 1, Compton 1, El Segundo 1, Glendale 3, Huntington Park 3, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 35, Pasadena 3, Pomona 2, Santa Monica 1, South Gate 1, Gardena 1, Madera County 1, San Rafael 1, Mariposa County 1, Yosemite National Park 1, Ukiah 8, Merced County 6, Modoc County 2, Monterey County 1, Salinas 1, Napa County 4, Napa 8, Orange County 1, Brea 1, Colfax 1, Riverside County 2, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 27, Sacramento 12, Ontario 1, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 1, National City 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 14, San Joaquin County 10, Manteca 5, Paso Robles 1, Atherton 1, Palo Alto 3, San Jose 6, Santa Cruz County 2, Watsonville 3, Shasta County 1, Dunsmuir 4, Yreka 2, Solano County 1, Vallejo 3, Stanislaus County 1, Tehama County 1, Tulare County 7, Exeter 1, Porterville 3, Ventura County 3, Fillmore 1, Yolo County 6, California 1.\*

**Smallpox**

29 cases: Kern County 4, Los Angeles County 1, Burbank 4, Los Angeles 3, Pasadena 2, Merced County 3, Modoc County 4, Riverside County 4, Shasta County 1, Siskiyou County 2, California 1.\*

**Typhoid Fever**

5 cases: Oakland 1, Fresno County 1, Ukiah 1, Riverside County 1, Redlands 1.

**Whooping Cough**

350 cases: Alameda County 4, Alameda 4, Albany 1, Oakland 5, Colusa County 1, Fresno County 3, Fresno 2, El Centro 5, Imperial 1, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 28, Alhambra 3, Arcadia 2, Avalon 1, Beverly Hills 2, Covina 2, Glendale 1, Glendora 2, Inglewood 2, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 67, Pasadena 3, San Fernando 3, Santa Monica 6, South Pasadena 4, Whittier 3, Lynwood 1, Monterey Park 2, Maywood 1, Gardena 1, Madera County 2, Nevada City 2, Orange County 4, Anaheim 4, Orange 3, Santa Ana 2, Laguna Beach 1, Riverside County 16, Sacramento County 11, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino 7, San Diego County 15, San Diego 5, San Francisco 33, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 3, San Luis Obispo County 5, South San Francisco 1, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Maria 5, San Jose 3, Stanislaus County 8, Modesto 2, Sutter County 1, Yuba City 2, Tulare County 32, Exeter 6, Porterville 2, Visalia 2, Ventura County 2, Yolo County 2.

**Meningitis (Epidemic)**

18 cases: Amador County 2, Kern County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 6, Monrovia 1, Madera County 1, Monterey County 1, Sacramento 1, San Francisco 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Sonoma County 1.

**Dysentery (Bacillary)**

One case: Napa County.

**Leprosy**

One case: San Francisco.

**Pellagra**

3 cases: Los Angeles County 1, Los Angeles 1, San Francisco 1.

**Tetanus**

One case: Los Angeles.

**Trachoma**

17 cases: Fresno County 1, Humboldt County 1, Lake County 3, Maywood 1, Madera County 3, Mendocino County 4, Modoc County 1, Tulare County 3.

**Paratyphoid**

One case: San Diego.

**Botulism**

2 cases: Glendale.

**Food Poisoning**

4 cases: Long Beach 2, San Francisco 2.

**Undulant Fever**

One case: Los Angeles County.

**Tularemia**

One case: Lassen County.

**Septic Sore Throat (Epidemic)**

One case: San Mateo County.

**Rabies (Animal)**

37 cases: Calexico 1, El Centro 2, Imperial 1, Los Angeles County 5, Glendale 1, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 16, Montebello 2, Torrance 1, Lynwood 1, Orange County 1, Siskiyou County 1, Visalia 1.

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